Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-26 **(cancelled)**

27. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly comprises a floor plate; an upper plate; a plurality of props standing on said floor plate to support said upper plate; side plates for closing side opening portions between said props;

first connected portions fixed between said floor plate and said props by screw fixing members, and second connected portions fixed between said upper plate and said props by screw fixing members;

wherein side surfaces of said floor plate, said props and said upper plate which constitute circumferential edge portions of said side opening portions are provided with installation grooves, respectively;

wherein a gasket is provided and is unitedly constituted of side surface sealing portions installed in said installation grooves formed on said circumferential edge portions of said side opening portions, respectively, and connection sealing portions for sealing said first connected portions and said second connected portions;

wherein said side plates are fixed to said circumferential edge portions so as to close said side opening portions via said side surface sealing portions of said gasket, respectively; and

wherein projections projecting along borderlines of said first connected portions and said second connected portions are respectively formed, and sealing grooves for engaging said projections are respectively formed in said connection sealing portions of said gasket.

28. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 27, wherein said installation grooves include housing spaces along side lines thereof, respectively, for housing deformed top portions of said gasket, respectively, said top portions of said gasket being deformed by pressing of said side plates.

29. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 28, wherein said housing spaces are formed along one of opposing side lines of each of said installation grooves.

30. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 29, wherein said first connected portions and said second connected portions have housing grooves for said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are formed in an arc shape along said first and second connected portions, and wherein projections are formed so as to project into said housing grooves.

31. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 30, wherein said housing grooves are formed in a size such as to be able to house top portions of said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are deformed by pressing of said side plates.

32. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 31, wherein said side plates are provided with at least one of equipment for windows, equipment for intake or discharge piping, and wiring harness equipment.

33. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 28, wherein said housing spaces are formed along both side lines of said installation grooves.

34. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 33, wherein said first connected portions and said second connected portions have housing grooves for said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are formed in an arc shape along said first and second connected portions, and wherein projections are formed so as to project into said housing grooves.

35. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 34, wherein said housing grooves are formed in a size such as to be able to house top portions of said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are deformed by pressing of said side plates.

36. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 35, wherein said side plates are provided with at least one of equipment for windows, equipment for intake or discharge piping, and wiring harness equipment.

37. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 28, wherein said first connected portions and said second connected portions have housing grooves for said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are formed in an arc shape along said first and second connected portions, and wherein projections are formed so as to project into said housing grooves.

38. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 37, wherein said housing grooves are formed in a size such as to be able to house top portions of said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are deformed by pressing of said side plates.

39. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 27, wherein said first connected portions and said second connected portions have housing grooves for said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are formed in an arc shape along said first and second connected portions, and said projections are formed so as to project into said housing grooves.

40. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 39, wherein said housing grooves are formed in a size such as to be able to house top portions of said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are deformed by pressing of said side plates.

41. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly comprises a floor plate; an upper plate; a plurality of props standing on said floor plate to support said upper plate; side plates for closing side opening portions between said props;

first connected portions fixed between said floor plate and said props by screw fixing members, and second connected portions fixed between said upper plate and said props by screw fixing members;

wherein side surfaces of said floor plate, said props and said upper plate which constitute circumferential edge portions of said side opening portions are provided with installation grooves, respectively;

wherein a gasket is provided and is unitedly constituted of side surface sealing portions installed in said installation grooves formed on said circumferential edge portions of said side opening portions, respectively, and connection sealing portions for sealing said first connected portions and said second connected portions;

wherein said side plates are fixed to said circumferential edge portions so as to close said side opening portions via said side surface sealing portions of said gasket, respectively; and

wherein said first connected portions and said second connected portions have housing grooves for said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are formed in an arc shape along said first and second connected portions, and wherein projections are formed so as to project into said housing grooves.

42. **(New)** A vacuum chamber assembly according to claim 41, wherein said housing grooves are formed in a size such as to be able to house top portions of said connection sealing portions of said gasket which are deformed by pressing of said side plates.